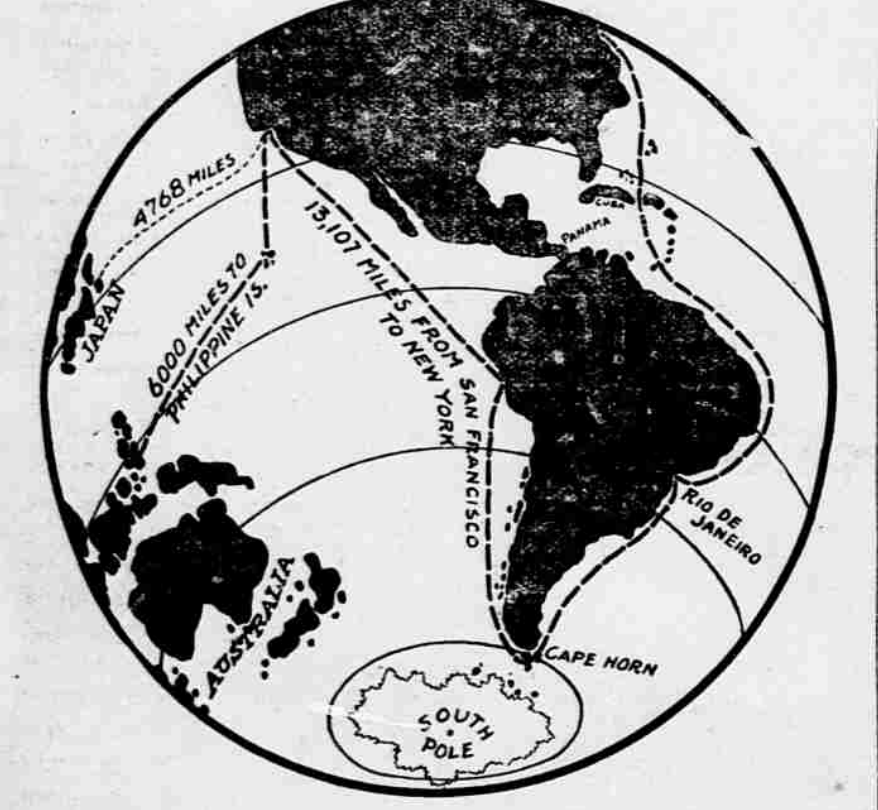


## MASSING THE NAVY IN THE PACIFIC.

A Spectacular Move Which Startles the World and Sets It to Guessing—Everybody Has His Own Reasons.

At last there is a big war move. At least half of the country is thus interpreting it. Theodore Roosevelt, President, could not long remain quiet in the seclusion of his Oyster Bay home. A fleet of 16, perhaps 18, monster battleships have been ordered to turn their bows to the Pacific.

It was possibly the grandest spectacular movement the President has ever undertaken. It has set the tongues of the whole world wagging. For Europe and Asia are alike interested in this cruise, by which the naval strength of the United States on the Pacific Ocean will exceed the naval strength of Japan.



LONGEST CRUISE BY THE LARGEST FLEET IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

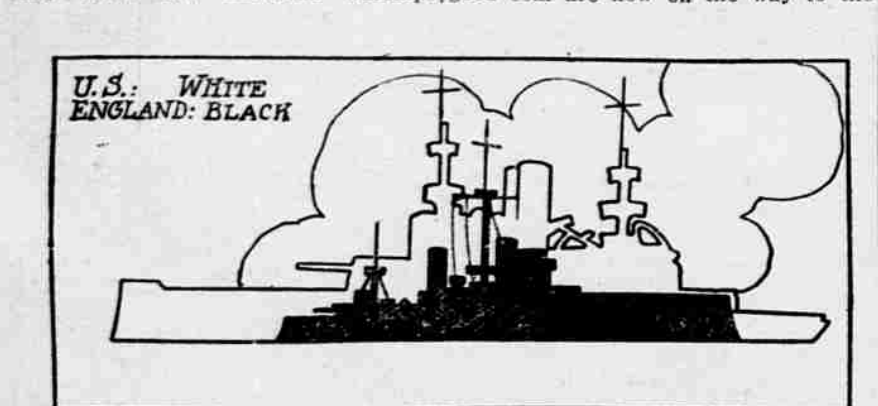
or of any other Nation. Months will be required to execute the maneuver. The ships are going around the Horn through the Strait of Magellan. They will constitute an enormous armada. The voyage to San Francisco will be about 13,000 miles.

Their mission is ostensibly one of peace. Secretary Metcalf gave the first official word when he arrived a few days ago at his home in Oakland, Cal. Rumors had been abroad that a transfer of battleships to the Pacific was contemplated. They were met weeks ago with stern denials. Secretary Loeb only a few days ago denied them at Oyster Bay. The President was also asked at the Navy Department. Before he left Washington Secretary Metcalf told a few newspaper correspondents in confidence that he was going to make the announcement as soon as he reached the coast. He wanted it to be a sort of surprise for the residents of his home city. He thought it would please them. As a matter of fact, the news was already out then, but the Navy Department and the White House offices at Oyster Bay kept denying it.

It is said that the President first broke the news to his Cabinet at one of the very last Cabinet meetings of the season. Some of them protested. They thought it would be entirely unnecessary. It would inflame the Japanese. It would make more difficult the solution of the problems now pending between the two countries. "Oh, no," replied the President, according to this report. "We will have a big fleet over there, and Japan will not dare undertake any military operations against us."

Embassador Aoki, representing the Mikado, has been prompt to announce that Japan will not regard the sending of the big battleship fleet as a hostile act. Of course, it is not. This Government undoubtedly has the right to send its warships into any ocean or into any sea on the face of the globe. Japan has the same right. So has Great Britain or any Nation that has a navy. But the sentimental effect of the transfer can not be overlooked. All sorts of plausible excuses are given for the move. One is the protection of our commercial interests in the Pacific. That is all well enough. We have large commercial interests in the Pacific, and the strife for the commercial mastery of that greatest of all oceans has only begun. The presence of a big fleet of ships will enhance our prestige there immensely. If there be disputes in any port our warships can sail quickly, and their frowning guns will be a warning to our opponents to proceed cautiously. The Japanese disposed to be haughty and overbearing in their commercial transactions, will not be as haughty as heretofore, if they know that American warships

are now on the way to the Pacific. That, however, is not likely to last a long time. It will be years before some of the ships again sail the waters of the Atlantic, once they are in the open Pacific. The Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Metcalf, announced that it was just as well to spend the money incident to the maintenance of our fleets at home ports as in Europe and in the West Indies. The money could have been spent along the Atlantic Coast, where there are a half dozen or more ports at which battleships can touch. It costs millions of money annually to keep battleships of



COMPARATIVE SIZE OF U. S. PACIFIC FLEET AND CHANNEL FLEET OF ENGLAND.

enough to sink the entire Japanese fleet can be summoned to a given point in a few days.

Our merchant ships are to be increased on the Pacific. The opening is not as attractive as the advocates of ship subsidies would make it, but there are prospects of a subsidy law one of these days, and subsidies or no subsidies are bound to pick up. And it will grow with more confidence with the knowledge that it is assured of ample protection from the arrogance of any foreign power.

Nominally a Practice Cruise.

Nominally the battleship fleet is going to the Pacific "only on a practice

various Pacific ports, where the battleships were to call. A very large supply, generally as much as 30,000 tons of good steaming coal, is kept in store at Cavite, near Manila, from which point coalliers take it to warships on various stations within a radius of a few hundred miles. The coalliers are stationed near China, to those ships that are scattered about the Archipelago, and so on. But now the coal depots are to be enlarged at several points on the eastern side of the Pacific. Heavily laden coalliers will be sent to the Straits of Magellan to await the arrival of the armada there, when its bunkers will be filled. There are eight or 10 good coalliers with the battleships now on the Atlantic, but they cannot carry enough coal to fuel the furnaces half of the long voyage.

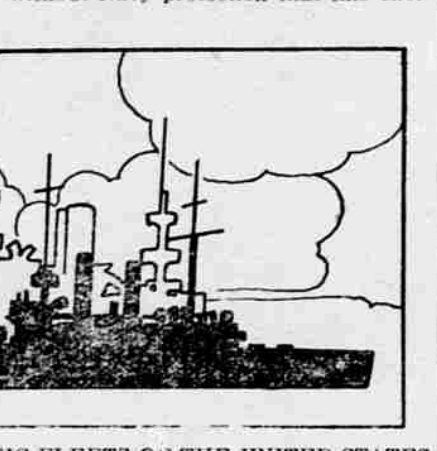
**Influence on San Francisco.**

Secretary Metcalf might have added what others have been saying, that the big battleship fleet is being sent off the coast of California to help maintain order in San Francisco. Of course, that would not have been politic for the Secretary. Moreover, he is a Californian, and could hardly be expected to say anything that might reflect upon the largest city in his home State. Nevertheless, it is a fact that matters are going from bad to worse in San Francisco. Things are so bad here that a pass there that the Administration would like to have a good-sized armed force near by. Theodore Roosevelt would not be so tenderly solicitous to California to maintain order. He remembers the experience President Grover Cleveland had along that line, when he ordered the Army to Chicago to put down the strike. It made Mr. Cleveland's name odious to the world of union labor. Nothing during his two Administrations probably brought down so much malediction upon him as President Roosevelt is not likely to do that if the disorderly elements in San Francisco finally get the upper hand, and the strikers who have held up the city for months, should prove too powerful for the pitifully weak civic authorities.

The battleship fleet, also not often thought of in that light, is a floating army of 20,000 men. On shore they are practically just as efficient as that number of soldiers from the Regular Army. If the emergency arises at San Francisco a few words flashed by him over the cable will bring the warships in a cluster before the city. They could come up there and remain indefinitely under a number of pretenses, whereas no large number of the soldiers of the Regular Army could be moved to that point without causing comment. Troops are stationed at the Presidio, near San Francisco, but they probably would not be sufficient to quell any disturbance on a large scale.

**What Will San Francisco Do?**

It remains to be seen whether the San Franciscans will not resent any such possibility, which is being widely exploited. When he sent his last annual message to Congress the President commented upon his willingness to subdue San Francisco by ships should it not offer proper protection for the Japanese within her limits. This raised a tremendous protest from the Pacific Coast. The President's name was mentioned with vigorous denunciation from one end to the other of the long State, and the feeling was so high that many declared if he had sent such a message a week before the November election the State would have gone overwhelmingly Democratic and elected eight Democrats instead of eight Republicans to the National House. At first blush the Californians are highly pleased at the prospect of so many warships coming to their coast. It will be the first time since great United States fleets have been seen there. There is a feeling that the coast is despoiled of its beauty, and that never fails to touch Western pride. For it is a fact that the Atlantic Coast is to be left largely without Navy protection that this enormous armada may sail to the Pacific.



COMPARATIVE SIZE OF THE PACIFIC FLEETS OF THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN.

Japanese armada may sail to the Pacific. Just as the ships will be sent over there is not known generally yet. The program has not been announced in detail. It is certain that the ships remaining will be cruisers and ships of minor fighting power.

The East has long enjoyed the spectacle of these fighting ships, finest of their type afloat. During the Summer, even the days of the famous White Squadron, which was the first squadron of our new Navy—composed of ships, it might be mentioned, that have become practically obsolete in the few years' service—these great leviathans have cruised much up and down the North Atlantic. They have visited Bar Harbor, Newport, and other seacoast resorts. The hundreds of gallant officers on board were welcome additions to the cottages given by ambitious society women. The honeymoons of the coming of these ships because they were an attraction for Summer visitors. The millionaire mammas, who have magnificent cottages at those places, might and had a gay time with their social equals, but there were plenty of other rich mammas, with unmarried daughters, who had the prospects of a match-making, and busied themselves to catch a young son-in-law in uniform.

**The Navy Makes Business.**

And then along in the Autumn the ships usually put into Boston or New York, for repairs and to be stored and provisioned anew for the Winter cruise in the West Indies. Such work always proceeded with a regular working weeks or months, so that the officers had lots of time ashore, as did the many thousands of sailors. All spent money and had a gay time with the match-making, and busied themselves to catch a young son-in-law in uniform.

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When finally the war fleets weighed anchor, after having been put in splendid condition by an array of machinists and the Summer months. The officers and men invariably enjoyed the gay Summer in Northern waters and

detested the cruise to the South in Winter. But it gave them splendid opportunity to observe the people of those interesting islands and to visit many interesting places.

The fleets, as Secretary Metcalf intimated, spent a bundle of money in West Indian ports. In recent years a squadron of fighting ships has been kept cruising much of the time in European waters. Occasionally powerful ships of the North Atlantic fleet have cruised to English or German shores and participated in grand festivities, such as the coronation of King Edward. There were splendid diversions of hospitality and a grand time all around. The officers met royal personages and were royally entertained.

**The Long Cruise.**

But these things will cease now in considerable part, as the funnels of the battleships, pouring forth black smoke, disappear on the southern horizon and down over the roof of the other side of the world. Brazil, past Panama, around Cape Horn, and then start on the long climb thru the "unpacific Pacific." Of course, many of the older officers, who have seen service on that side of the United States, many of them, however, have not. Few of the sailors have served except on the Atlantic. Most of them, therefore, will welcome the change of scene. They are assured of a fine South American trip in the course of their long cruise. For the ships will stop in certain South American ports on the way, where heretofore only an occasional United States warship has been seen.

Now the visits of the officers and seamen will be at strange cities to make to them—San Francisco, Portland, San Diego and Honolulu. The people of those cities, while accustomed to the presence of the United States fleet, have enjoyed at the coming of a tremendous fleet. The floating army in blue will be received with tremendous enthusiasm, and the people will show them the most unbounded. It is likely that Honolulu, in the Mid-Pacific, will be the base of the fleet. For years Honolulu has been trying to get big squadrons of warships to visit there. The islands constitute what is generally known as the Paradise of the Pacific, and the people are famous for their splendid entertainments. The islands are now being discussed as an ideal haven for a big war fleet. Its availability for that purpose was one of the attractive features much emphasized to influence Congress toward annexation.

Furthermore, there will be the possibility of a visit to the Hawaiian Islands. The fleet will be kept on the eastern fringe of the Pacific. That will be the present and popular opinion in Japan. But eventually the ships will steam westward beyond doubt. There are strong hints of troubles in China, and the presence of a few battleships of powerful type in Chinese ports will help protect American interests. Friendly visits to Japanese ports may be encouraged eventually for the purpose of demonstrating to the Japanese the character of the character of our Navy defense.

**The World Speculating.**

The city has been full of speculation about the long State, and the feeling was so high that many declared if he had sent such a message a week before the November election the State would have gone overwhelmingly Democratic and elected eight Democrats instead of eight Republicans to the National House. At first blush the Californians are highly pleased at the prospect of so many warships coming to their coast. It will be the first time since great United States fleets have been seen there. There is a feeling that the coast is despoiled of its beauty, and that never fails to touch Western pride. For it is a fact that the Atlantic Coast is to be left largely without Navy protection that this enormous armada may sail to the Pacific.

The preparations, nevertheless, are going on actively. Orders have already gone forth from the Navy Department to the shipyard at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where her repairs are being done, has replied that she will not be ready to sail until the end of August. It is supposed that this ship will be the flagship of the new Pacific fleet, as she is now of the Atlantic fleet. Admiral Robley Evans is in command. The orders to the Connecticut have led to the conjecture that the fleet would be starting late in the Summer, but the best informed say that it will be delayed several weeks, perhaps as late as November or December.

**The Navy People Rejoicing.**

The Navy enthusiasts are seizing upon the occasion for a great and aggressive campaign for a larger Navy. The Navy officers, who are naturally very patriotic, want to aggrandize their own profession. They are urging a coterie of Administration correspondents in the Navy Department to publish a series of articles which are one reason why certain newspapers have been full of vigorous articles about the necessity for more fighting ships. The Navy men are also talking about establishing a small-arm rifle range for the use of bluejackets and marines who might be landed there for an opportunity to stretch their legs on land.

But it will probably be a long time before Congress would sanction the purchase of Magdalena Bay as a coaling station. If it is done at all it will probably be as an adjunct to the defense of the Isthmian Canal when it is completed. It is very much nearer the Isthmus than San Diego, the last harbor on the Pacific Coast of the United States, when one is sailing south. The Congress of Mexico, well as the United States would have to approve of the bargain. This is said to be a favorable time for pressing the negotiations with Mexico, as that country feels very friendly to us because of our friendly attitude in the recent troubles that Government has had with Central American Republics.

The big Navy Yard at the Atlantic Coast are likely to suffer from the movement of battleships toward the Pacific. Of course, they will have a rush work when the fleet is being fitted out for the long cruise. But by next Autumn business is likely to become dull, and the yards will eventually have to discharge many of their employees. The Navy Yard employs new numbers of thousands, and are invariably something of a political factor in the cities near to which the yards are located. It is very much nearer the Isthmus than San Diego, the last harbor on the Pacific Coast of the United States, when one is sailing south. The Congress of Mexico, well as the United States would have to approve of the bargain. This is said to be a favorable time for pressing the negotiations with Mexico, as that country feels very friendly to us because of our friendly attitude in the recent troubles that Government has had with Central American Republics.

**The Political Aspect.**

The political aspect of the situation is receiving some attention. There is no telling how far the present agitation will go. With the preparations for the departure of the fleet, which preparations will cover several months, the agitation will continue, and will almost certainly be projected into the session of Congress. The plans for tremendous naval appropriations will be formulated by the enthusiasts for that branch of the service as soon as Congress begins its session. They will have advocates

from any project of news interest in Washington.

It is whispered about that the President was taken by surprise in the manner in which Secretary Metcalf made his announcement. That is to be doubted. The plan, according to this report, was for the fleet to pay a visit to the coast of South America. It could sail down the Atlantic Coast, it was claimed, on the plea that it was going to follow for a way on the route Secretary Root sailed last Summer in his peace voyage to the South American Republics. After the ships had visited at several ports and gotten well down toward the Horn the purpose to visit the Pacific could be announced. However, it is not likely that Secretary Metcalf would have made any such announcement as he did without first having consulted with President Roosevelt, who is very strict in his official relations with members of his Cabinet and does not allow them to take any important step till after he has been consulted and has given his approval. On the contrary, it is altogether likely that Secretary Metcalf had a complete understanding with the President before either of them left Washington, and that the Secretary followed the plan the President outlined to him.

**A New Coaling Station.**

One of the new naval projects being agitated as a result of the sending of ships to the Pacific is the purchase from Mexico of a coaling station on Magdalena Bay, on the ocean side of lower California. It is about 600 miles south of San Diego, and 100 miles from the foot of the peninsula. Its single entrance is a mile and a half wide and the depth of water is in some places as much as 20 fathoms. The bay is 10 miles broad and 15 miles long and wholly landlocked. The bay is wholly landlocked with the exception of the entrance just mentioned. Inside of Magdalena Bay there is a body of water known as Alameda Bay, which, it is pointed out, could become a possession of the United States could we purchase from Mexico the lower part of the peninsula. Claims are made that Mexico has already been sounded in a preliminary way regarding the purchase, and that Secretary Root may attempt to negotiate a treaty when he visits President Diaz early in the Autumn.

Mexico has practically no navy, and therefore regards with complacency the strengthening of our naval forces on both oceans. Moreover, Mexico is said to look upon Lower California as one of the least desirable of her Pacific States. The population of that State is small, probably about 40,000, because the country is very wild and in many places very barren. American companies have been purchasing some

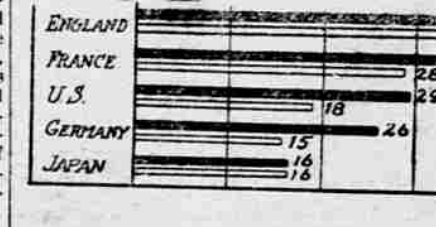


DIAGRAM SHOWING THE COMPARATIVE NAVAL STRENGTH OF THE POWERS NAMED, WHEN SHIPS NOW BUILDING ARE COMPLETED.

of the more valuable of these lands. The Lower California peninsula is traversed from the extreme southern tip to the boundary of the United States by a high range of hills, these being the terminus of the Rocky Mountains. They are nearer the eastern than the western side of the peninsula, and the descent to the water on the gulf side is extremely abrupt. There is little rainfall on the coast. Naval officers long ago discovered the desirability of this bay for purposes of war, and now they are urging strongly that this Government acquire the land. One of the specially attractive features of the bay to the Navy mind is that adjacent to it is a magnificent drill ground, large enough, it is said, for drilling the entire United States fleet. Navy officers are also talking about establishing a small-arm rifle range for the use of bluejackets and marines who might be landed there for an opportunity to stretch their legs on land.

But it will probably be a long time before Congress would sanction the purchase of Magdalena Bay as a coaling station. If it is done at all it will probably be as an adjunct to the defense of the Isthmian Canal when it is completed. It is very much nearer the Isthmus than San Diego, the last harbor on the Pacific Coast of the United States, when one is sailing south. The Congress of Mexico, well as the United States would have to approve of the bargain. This is said to be a favorable time for pressing the negotiations with Mexico, as that country feels very friendly to us because of our friendly attitude in the recent troubles that Government has had with Central American Republics.



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF MAGDALENA ISLAND AND PANAMA.

may be transferred to Mare Island, against the probability of trouble in getting repairs done on the Pacific Coast because of the strikes. Very probably some of the Eastern machinists will prefer to move to the coast if the prospect of more work holds good.

**The Political Aspect.**

The political aspect of the situation is receiving some attention. There is no telling how far the present agitation will go. With the preparations for the departure of the fleet, which preparations will cover several months, the agitation will continue, and will almost certainly be projected into the session of Congress. The plans for tremendous naval appropriations will be formulated by the enthusiasts for that branch of the service as soon as Congress begins its session. They will have advocates



Thinks the Lightning is Striking All Around Him.

who will be persistent and who will throw the Navy Committee rooms to persecute the agitators to vote the necessary money.

The agitation may be used to further a demand for the re-nomination of President Roosevelt, for it is not to be overlooked that large Navy preparations and prospective war are alike popular

boom a little boost, but the weather was too hot for Mr. Burke's boost to have any perceptible effect.

The Taft boom, however, invaded New England before the Secretary departed for Canada. Only a few days ago Secretary Elmer Dyer, of the National Committee, went to New Hampshire, and had a talk with Gen. Streeter, of Concord, who is the recognized Taft leader in the Granite State. Then when Secretary Taft reached Millbury, Mass., to visit his mother for a few hours, Gen. Streeter was on hand for a two hours' conference with him. That interested the political leaders, for Secretary Taft's friends are making much of the fact that his parents came from Massachusetts, and that he passed considerable of his boyhood there.

In thus invading New England the Taft boom encounters the Fairbanks boom, which has been credited with considerable strength in that section. The Vice President, too, is of Massachusetts and Vermont ancestry, and the ancestry of a candidate generally plays a part in a sentimental part in bringing him support in the State as well as his father and grandfather's lived. But while Secretary Taft's supporters at Murray Bay, N. H., President Fairbanks can be counted upon to repair his own New England fences. The politicians will be dropping around his bungalow in an unpretentious way, and will go away wise as to the plan of action. Incidentally Speaker Cannon proposes to go into New England soon to spend a part of his vacation. He, too, will be looking for votes, and with some prospect of getting them. Many of the New Englanders like Speaker Cannon, and may furnish him a few delegates.

Senator Corbin, who is still looked upon as a Presidential candidate in some quarters, but who has steadily disclaimed to his friends any serious ambition in that direction, is coming to the West, making trouble for the Republicans who want to eliminate him from public life. Reports of his magnificent work continue to reach Washington. He is said to believe in the Knox boom, and to have prophesied that it would develop enormous strength next Winter when the ball opens in earnest.

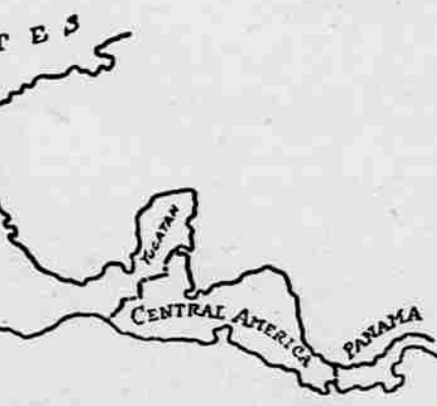
**They Will All Be Here.**

Incidentally it is worth remembering that nearly all the Republican candidates for the Presidency will gather in Washington next Winter, which fact is likely to add to the buoyancy of the political world. The Vice President, Fairbanks will come back here to preside over the sessions of the Senate with the industry and regularity that no previous Vice President, certainly, has shown. Times has ever shown. Speaker Cannon, too, will be in Washington to preside over the sessions. In reality he is not Speaker now, but a Presidential candidate with the expiration of the last Congress, March 4. But he draws the salary till his successor is selected, and by the way, he is earning pay at the rate of \$12,000 a year, which is more than any other Speaker of the American Congress ever drew. That is because he has been Speaker since 1891, from \$8,000 a year at the last session. The same is true of Vice President Fairbanks, whose pay now is \$12,000 per annum. The President, too, will be in Washington, of course, presiding over the Treasury Department and seeing that none of his surplus gets away from him but a strictly legal manner. Therefore, the Republican Presidential game will be largely played in Washington for several months, and can be counted upon to become decidedly interesting soon as the candidates begin to return.

## QUIET ALONG THE POTOMAC

The Presidential Candidates Are All Far From Washington, Seeking Cool Shades and Rest for the Weary.

Presidential boomlets—probably none of them yet really deserves the designation of booms—have become enmeshed in the hot wave. The aspirants themselves have fled to cool resorts. Secretary Taft has at last fled to the cool shores of Murray Bay, near Pointe-a-Pitre, Canada, is playing golf, fishing and otherwise enjoying himself. Vice President Fairbanks, worn out with the mischievous agitation about his having



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF MAGDALENA ISLAND AND PANAMA.

served cocktails at a luncheon to President Roosevelt in Indianapolis—an agitation furthered by his political enemies with the prohibitionists as their usual allies—has fled to a rural retreat at Danvers, Mass. The papers have had a lot of fun over the Vice President's predicament, and have said nothing about the fact that President Roosevelt is supposed to have drunk the cocktail that the Vice President placed before him.

Speaker Cannon, in his Danville, Ill., home seems to have passed into oblivion as a Presidential candidate for the time being. Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, is living a peaceful existence on his little farm at Valley Forge. His original boom, Representative Burke, of Pennsylvania, came down to Washington a few days ago, and gave the Knox

Of course, Secretary Taft will be in Washington during the Winter as head of the War Department. His lieutenants will be coming and going all Winter, as will be the lieutenants of all the other aspirants. Gov. Hughes, of New York, if indeed he becomes a candidate, will be about the only absentee from Washington. Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, of course, will resume his seat at the north end of the Capitol. In that Senate Chamber, counting Senator La Follette as a declared Presidential candidate, there will be three men whose friends will be working hard in the States for delegates to nominate them for the highest office in the land.

Perhaps Secretary Cortelyou should be reckoned as a Presidential aspirant. He will be in Washington, of course, presiding over the Treasury Department and seeing that none of his surplus gets away from him but a strictly legal manner. Therefore, the Republican Presidential game will be largely played in Washington for several months, and can be counted upon to become decidedly interesting soon as the candidates begin to return.

As far as Washington is concerned, the Democratic Presidential maneuvers will be of the long-distance variety. No aspirant of that party will be residing in Washington unless Senator Daniel, of Virginia, can be counted as one of the Jeffersonians who has his eyes upon the 16th century type of a gentleman's residence known as the White House.